

**To:** Ana [abaptista@ironboundcc.org]  
**Cc:** Drew Curtis [dcurtis@ironboundcc.org]; aroIJOHNSTON [cjohnston@ironboundcc.org]; kluesner.david@epamail.epa.gov" [kluesner.david@epamail.epa.gov,]  
**Bcc:** []  
**From:** CN=Ray Basso/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Tue 11/13/2012 4:41:25 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.  
[Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov)  
[mosher.eric@epa.gov](mailto:mosher.eric@epa.gov)  
[plevin.lisa@epa.gov](mailto:plevin.lisa@epa.gov)  
<http://www.epa.gov/region2>  
<http://blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple/>  
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<http://eastferryrevitalization.wordpress.com/>  
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Ana, I'm checking into how best to respond to your questions. Will follow up with a status report shortly.

**From:** Ana <abaptista@ironboundcc.org>  
**To:** Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
**Cc:** Drew Curtis <dcurtis@ironboundcc.org>, CarolIJOHNSTON <cjohnston@ironboundcc.org>, "kluesner.david@epamail.epa.gov" <kluesner.david@epamail.epa.gov>  
**Date:** 11/13/2012 11:06 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

Hi Ray

What is the follow up on the sampling taken from the one or two homes that your team collected from basements that still had water. We have been canvassing the area and some other residents set aside water from their basements for possible testing. Will you do more sampling?

What can EPA or njdep do to check on the nearby industries that were flooded and potentially leaked out to the neighborhood??

What precautions should be taken in cleaning up basements? What should we tell residents cleaning up water from their basements? What equipment should we try to provide?

Who is the point person to connect with for getting results from sampling and directing residents questions about possible contamination??

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 12, 2012, at 11:47 AM, Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov wrote:

-----Forwarded by Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US on 11/12/2012 11:47AM -----

To: Lisa Plevin/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

From: Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US

Date: 11/12/2012 11:41AM

Cc: George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, John LaPadula/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>, "Plevin Lisa" <plevin.lisa@epa.gov>, Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Mugdan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Pat Seppi/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Bonnie Bellow/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, JessicaSophia Kelley/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Re: Re: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

CIC Sophia Kelley accompanied OSC Tabayoyong on November 11 to the Ironbound. While Sophia's summary, copied below, is not a releasable communications product it does capture the results of their recon efforts yesterday:

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November 11, 2012 Recon/Assessment of Ironbound Area, Newark, NJ

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Esther Street – Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy and her family, tenants, house destroyed, water mixed with strong smelling chemicals flooded everything. On our walk through it smelled strongly of mold, but no standing water was present.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Esther Street – Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy pumped all the water out, just spoke with her, did not visit her house,

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Esther – Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy basement, large backyard and car all flooded.

Some shallow water still present in back room of basement. Lorraine says they have a vase of flood water they will put aside for us.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Waydell – Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy water mixed with oil and other chemicals flooded their basements, strong odors still present throughout the house, factory (Alora?) behind the house responsible for the chemicals, NJDEP came to inspect and clean up some of the oil. She needs the NJDEP report and asked us to call her or help her try to get it. No power, until it gets cleaned up because

the circuit breaker was underwater for two days. Also the boiler and water heater are gone.

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Waydell – **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**, odor in the backyard, already did all the cleanup and took the dry wall out of the basement

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Waydell – basement flooded, wall collapsed in the basement, brand new furnace, everything destroyed, very distraught, lives alone and has no help to do the work, would not give name or number

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Waydell – **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** neighbors helped each other out, borrowed generators, pumped the basements out, all the chemicals from the nearby business. We did not view her house..

---

David Kluesner - Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA - Manhattan Office  
290 Broadway, 26th Floor / NY, NY 10007  
212.637.3653  
<http://www.epa.gov/region2>  
<http://blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple/>

Lisa Plevin---11/12/2012 10:51:04 AM---adding David and Mary. As FYI, a few days after storm, I reached out to Ana/Carol to inquire about

From: Lisa Plevin/R2/USEPA/US  
To: Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, John LaPadula/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Mugdan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>, "Plevin Lisa" <plevin.lisa@epa.gov>  
Date: 11/12/2012 10:51 AM  
Subject: Re: Re: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

adding David and Mary. As FYI, a few days after storm, I reached out to Ana/Carol to inquire about impact in the Ironbound. At that time, they were not aware of below concerns.

-----Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Plevin Lisa" <plevin.lisa@epa.gov>  
From: Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US  
Date: 11/12/2012 10:24AM  
Cc: John LaPadula/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Mugdan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>  
Subject: Re: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.  
We sent staff out yesterday. Didn't see major problems. I believe we are done

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Ray Basso  
Sent: 11/12/2012 09:07 AM CST  
To: George Pavlou  
Cc: John LaPadula; Judith Enck; Walter Mugdan; "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>  
Subject: Re: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

Since there didn't appear to be any further communication on the Ironbound flooding issue I called Carol Johnston to find out what's going on. She told me that Ana Baptista was the lead person for ICC and she knows all the details and she will be calling me today to fill me in on the particulars. If we are already in action mode on this let me know. Likewise, I will forward any information I get from my conversation with Ana.

-----George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Mugdan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

From: George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US

Date: 11/10/2012 04:20PM

Cc: "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>, John LaPadula/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray Basso/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

I will let Mathy know and forward Walter's plan.

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Judith Enck

Sent: 11/10/2012 04:11 PM EST

To: Walter Mugdan

Cc: George Pavlou; "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>; John LaPadula; Ray Basso

Subject: Re: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

Makes sense. Walter, plz communicate this to mathy today. Many thanks!

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Walter Mugdan

Sent: 11/10/2012 02:47 PM CST

To: Judith Enck

Cc: George Pavlou; "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>; John LaPadula; Ray Basso

Subject: Concern about floodwater in Ironbound homes.

I spoke with Eric. Here's my suggestion: we send out a Recon team to the Ironbound water-front area, same as we did in Gowanus and Newtown Creek, to survey the area. If the surveyors see any obvious problems such as orphan containers or oil spills we can address those. AND, if we identify any residences with flood water still present, we can take a sample at a maximum of, say, 2 such places. (It is hard to imagine we would actually find any such residences two weeks after the event; but it's possible might find some water in a sump of a house, as we did at one residence at Newtown and of the Gowanus buildings.) If we do find a residence to sample, we can also take one sample from the River in a location nearby, same as we did at Gowanus and Newtown. And, like G & N, the rationale for why we sampled at all would be the proximity of the flood-affected buildings to a Superfund-designated waterway that flooded.

-----Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA

From: Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US

Date: 11/10/2012 12:05PM

Cc: "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>, "Walter Mugdan" <mugdan.walter@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Fw: Checking in

great idea. let's do that. if there is even some chemical contam we need to be extra cautious  
walterand eric let us know what you think so i can get back to mathy today tx

Judith Enck

Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10007-1866  
(212) 637-5000

From: George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US  
To: Judith Enck/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, "Walter Mugdan" <mugdan.walter@epa.gov>, "Eric Mosher" <mosher.eric@epa.gov>  
Date: 11/10/2012 11:40 AM  
Subject: Re: Fw: Checking in

Now that NJ allows us to pump out basements may be we can do the eastern part of Ironbound if they are flooded.

If we send an assessment team out I need to let NJ know before we do it. That is the arrangement so that they are not surprised.

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Judith Enck  
To: Mathy Stanislaus  
Cc: DavidR Lloyd; Lisa Feldt; George Pavlou; Walter Mugdan  
Date: 11/10/2012 10:13 AM CST  
Subject: Re: Fw: Checking in

walter and I discussed this and we checked on the superfund site (which is a long stretch of the river) and did not see the need to do testing. the dewatering facility was damaged, but that is not a big issue. epa did a huge amt of testing on a floodplain a few months ago after a big flood (nothing like the storm surge) and did not find elevated contamination levels. early on, we called two people at Ironbound community corp and they did not request us to do any sampling. re: "flooded homes on the eastern end of the ironbound" that may be impacted by bf and industrial properties. we have not looked at that but let's hear from walter about possibly sending an assessment team out.

Judith Enck  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10007-1866  
(212) 637-5000

From: Mathy Stanislaus/DC/USEPA/US  
To: "Judith Enck" <Enck.Judith@epamail.epa.gov>, George Pavlou/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Mugdan/R2/USEPA/US  
Cc: "Lisa Feldt" <Feldt.Lisa@epamail.epa.gov>, DavidR Lloyd/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 11/10/2012 10:55 AM  
Subject: Fw: Checking in

Thoughts on addressing question below?

From: Mathy Stanislaus  
Sent: 11/10/2012 10:54 AM EST  
To: "Drew Curtis" <dcurtis@ironboundcc.org>  
Cc: DavidR Lloyd  
Subject: Re: Checking in  
Drew: Let me check what we've done so far and plans to address this. I'll get back to you.

From: Drew Curtis [dcurtis@ironboundcc.org]  
Sent: 11/09/2012 02:24 PM EST  
To: Mathy Stanislaus  
Cc: DavidR Lloyd  
Subject: Re: Checking in

Hi, Mathy-

Just wanted to check in and give you a quick update on our relief efforts. Terrell Homes does have power again, so that has gotten back to normal. However, the situation with the flooded homes on the eastern end of the Ironbound is still a major concern.

The flooding was caused by storm surge of the Passaic River and may have washed contaminated land from brownfields and existing factories into the storm. We do not know though how much was contaminated and the City of Newark is unable to investigate either. Is the EPA able to help assess this situation?

Kindly let me know if you can.

Thanks,

Drew

On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 6:41 PM, <Stanislaus.Mathy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:  
Feel free to contact if there are any unmet needs regarding impacts from Sandy.

From: Drew Curtis [dcurtis@ironboundcc.org]  
Sent: 11/05/2012 06:39 PM EST  
To: Mathy Stanislaus  
Cc: DavidR Lloyd  
Subject: Re: Checking in

Mathy,

Thanks so much for checking in. Yes, I gave Rachel and Megan a tour of our community two Fridays ago. We are nearly finished with our plan and implementation strategy, at which point I will send along for your review. We'll also be sending along the video on the project that you graciously offered up a few words for.

At the time though, we are focused on responding to Sandy. Besides reaching out to the hundreds of folks we see every day to see how we can support, we are trying to address two large challenges, Terrell Homes, a public housing development that has lost power, and flooding caused by the storm surge. This flooding ruined cars and homes for a lot of residents, who actually had to be evacuated due to the contamination that exists of sites along the industrial Passaic riverfront. We've actually talked to the EPA about this because of the superfund site that exists there.

However, we will be wrapping up our plan soon and reaching out with questions.

All the best,

Drew

On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 5:57 PM, <Stanislaus.Mathy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Drew - I understand that two of our Brownfields Staff, Rachel Lentz and Megan Quinn were able to spend a day with you last week visiting the Area Wide Grant project area, and discussing your progress. I'm pleased they were able to come up for the day and I look forward to hearing more about the progress you are making with this grant.

I wanted to also drop you a quick note to express my hope that you are fairing okay in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. What a tragic storm Please let me or my Brownfields Program Director know if you have any needs or concerns related to the AWP Grant - Take care.

Mathy Stanislaus  
USEPA Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response

--

Drew Curtis  
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<http://eastferryrevitalization.wordpress.com/>

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